

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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R 111611Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5453
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 19189

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PO, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET REACTION TO NAMING OF PORTUGUESE
PRIME MINISTER

REF: LISBON 5977

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. SOVIET PRESS AUGUST 11
REPORTS NAMING OF NEW PORTUGUESE PRIME MINISTER
DA COSTA BUT AVOIDS EXPRESS COMMENT ON THE APPOINT-
MENT. PRAVDA'S LISBON CORRESPONDENT KOTOV IDENTIFIES
DA COSTA AS AN "INDEPENDENT" (PRAVDA'S QUOTES)
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WITH YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AS HEAD OF PORTUGAL'S
LARGEST INDUSTRIAL FIRMS, KOTOV ALSO PLAYS BACK
REPORTED COMMENT BY SOCIALIST PARTY LEADER SOARES
THAT PRESIDENT EANES DID NOT FULFILL THE REQUIRE-
MENTS OF CONSTITUTION ARTICLE 190 IN MAKING HIS
SELECTION. ALSO CITED IS A CPC STATEMENT THAT THE
APPOINTMENT "DOES NOT HAVE THE CHARACTERISTICS

WHICH THE CPC BELIEVES NECESSARY FOR RESOLVING"
THE PORTUGUESE CRISIS AND ITS FINAL POSITION WILL
THEREFORE DEPEND ON THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S CHOICE OF
MINISTERS AS WELL AS ITS PROGRAM. END UNCLASSIFIED.

2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. MFA PORTUGUESE DESK OFFICER
(ASTAKHOV) TOLD EMBOFF DURING LATTER'S INTRODUCTORY
CALL AUGUST 10 THAT THE FIRST REPORTS (PRESUMABLY
FROM SOVIET EMBASSY LISBON) INDICATE THAT DA COSTA
IS A "MODERATE" ALTHOUGH "CAPITALIST" IN ORIENTATION.
ASTAKHOV SAID THAT HE ALSO UNDERSTOOD DA COSTA WAS
LINKED IN SOME WAY TO THE "ROCKEFELLERS." ASKED
WHETHER THE MFA IS PLEASED HE IS NON-MILITARY, ASTAKHOV
SUGGESTED THIS IS A PLUS BUT THE POLITICAL SITUATION
IN PORTUGAL NONETHELESS CONTINUES UNCERTAIN AND THE
SOVIETS WOULD BE VERY CAUTIOUS ABOUT DRAWING CONCLU-
SIONS. (IN LATTER REGARD WE NOTE PRAVDA DID NOT
REPORT CUNHAL'S STATEMENT THAT "PORTUGAL'S DEMOCRACY
IS GOING TO SURVIVE, THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE WILL
CONTINUE TO DEFEND DEMOCRACY, WE WILL LIVE IN LIBERTY
AND DEMOCRACY," REPORTED REFTEL.) TOON

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NNN

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